(c) the major cities which are directly connected by air with Rajkot Airport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) There are three daily air services being operated by Air India and Jet Airways to/from Rajkot airport.

(b) Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services within which airlines are free to operate air services to specific stations, depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

(c) Only Mumbai is air linked with Rajkot presently.

Expatriate pilots

2779. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of out-of-job Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) holders is close to 400 and at the same time airlines continues to hire about 1000 expatriate pilots;

(b) whether India is one of the few countries that allows foreign pilots to fly domestic routes;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also a fact that many CPL holders after spending around Rs. 35 lakhs on flying course abroad had been forced to take up call centre jobs to pay back their education loans; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) does not maintain records of unemployed pilots. DGCA validates foreign licences as per the provisions contained in Aircraft Rules, 1937 and Civil Aviation Requirements. 626 expatriate pilots work with various scheduled operators in the country.

Harassment of passengers by taxi drivers at IGIA

2780. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that air passengers are being harassed by the prepaid taxi drivers at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals; and

(c) whether Government has any proposal to have separate prepaid taxi counters exclusively for the Members of Parliament at IGIA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) As per the system in place for hiring taxies at the IGI taxi drivers do not have any leeway of choosing the passengers and they have to take the passengers who have been allotted their taxi. The taxis at the Domestic terminal are made to stand in the bays and the